I was able to come upon among the Matacos was this attempt at 533
a poetic song, sung goodness only knows how, by the squaws.
However, in spite of its failings it does reveal the use of rime:

Bonica nambonica [539]
Se-le-ctié-nó:
Bonica, bonica,
Nambonica, nambonica.

which means. I like, I do not like you to embrace me.
I like, I like, I do not like, I do not like.

They have no dances; those violent gallopings about in a 535
circle holding hands can hardly be called dancing. They are chaste, however, when they do dance, and if men and women happen to be at a dance together each sex forms its own separate circle, one within the other, but without touching.

In a word, everything pertaining to the imagination, every- 18!
thing coming under the heading of religion, poetry or dance, can be said to be completely lacking among these savages.

[217] Chapter XIII

Social Matters (continued)

But if they have no imagination are they not also heartless and insensitive? It has repeatedly been said and written that the bonds of kinship are not at all close and easily severed among the Indians, and this "fact" has apparently been picked up not from observation but by analogy based on the absence of the family and the existence of concubinage.

I am afraid that this is going too far. We are accustomed to and molded by our Christian tradition, which, by the way, is an exception to the immense majority of other cultural traditions, an exception which is paid for in part by pretense and infidelity, and the barefaced immorality which is prostitution.

It seems to us that if a woman is not joined to a man by all the sacraments of the church, and if she is not his only wife, then there results a shrivelling in all the finer feelings.

3: Metraux
539, 773

SI7 Mataco SI7

[For myths and folklore, see pp. 9-89, category 116.]